



November 2014

The Bay Leaf

California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter
Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

www.ebcnps.org

www.groups.google.com/group/ebcnps

Please take a look at the new Web version of the *Bay Leaf* at <http://bayleafnewsletter.org/wp/>. It has all the same articles in a convenient and easy to read html format.

MEMBERS' MEETING

Plants and Habitats of the Siskiyou Mountains of Southwestern Oregon and Northwestern California

Speaker: Linda Ann Vorobik, PhD

Wednesday, November 19, 7:30 pm

Location: Garden Room, Orinda Public Library (directions below)

Linda Ann Vorobik will present a photographic travelogue of an area she knows well: the Siskiyou Mountains of southwestern Oregon and northwestern California. She has been visiting this region yearly since her dissertation research on plants in the genus *Arabis*. The group she studies includes the federally endangered *A. macdonaldiana* and its nearest relatives. Linda will provide an update on the taxonomic status of this interesting group of plants, and of course she will share images and stories of favorite places and plants in the Siskiyou.

Linda Ann Vorobik is a PhD botanist and botanical artist who now lives at her family home on Lopez Island, Washington, but who maintains an affiliation and does research through the University and Jepson Herbaria at UC Berkeley. She is currently working on illustrations for *A Flora of Santa Catalina Island* and finishing a research project on the status of the federally endangered *Erysimum menziesii* and its nearest relatives. Most know her from her five-year editorship of *Fremontia*, the CNPS journal, and as illustrator of over 1/3 of the botanical drawings in *The Jepson Manual*.

Linda's art and silk scarves will be available for viewing and sale before and after the talk, and Linda will donate 35 percent of sales to East Bay CNPS. For more information about Linda's art and activities see VorobikBotanicalArt.com.

East Bay CNPS membership meetings are free of charge and open to everyone. This month's meeting takes place in the Garden Room of the Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way (in Orinda Village). The Garden Room is on the second floor of the building, accessible by stairs or an elevator. The Garden Room opens at 7 pm; the meeting begins at 7:30 pm. Call 510-496-6016 or email sr0433@yahoo.com if you have questions.

Directions to Orinda Public Library at 24 Orinda Way:

From the west, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda/Moraga exit. At the end of the off ramp, turn left on Camino Pablo (toward Orinda Village), right on Santa Maria Way (the signal after the BART station and freeway entrance), and left on Orinda Way.

From the east, take Hwy 24 to the Orinda exit. Follow the ramp to Orinda Village. Turn right on Santa Maria way (the first signal) and left on Orinda Way.

Once on Orinda Way, go 1 short block to the parking lot on the southeast side of the two-story building on your right. There is additional free parking beneath the building as well as on the street.

From BART (4 blocks): Exit the Orinda station, turn right and cross a pedestrian bridge, then cross a second pedestrian bridge on the left. Go 1 short block on the sidewalk to the third pedestrian bridge. Go 2 blocks on Orinda Way to the Orinda Library.

No meeting in December (happy holidays!)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Sierra winter storms are likely to be remembered more by the bridges and houses they carry away than by their beauty or the thousands of blessings they bring to the fields and gardens of Nature.

John Muir, The Mountains of California

Can you live without the willow tree? Well, no, you can't. The willow tree is you.

John Steinbeck

MEMBERS' MEETING



Waldo rockcress (*Arabis aculeolata*). Photo by Linda Vorobik. *A. aculeolata* is a rare California native.

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Spotted coralroot *Corallorhiza maculata*). Pen and ink with watercolor by Linda Ann Vorobik.

2014 NATIVE PLANT FAIR

Another successful Plant Fair

Thank you to the Board, Volunteer Coordinator Steve Toby, and the scores of amazing volunteers who contributed their time and energy to make the 2014 Plant Fair an enjoyable fundraiser and outreach event. Our sales gross held up well to competition from the Regional Parks Botanic Garden's new fall sale. This year we also had the largest ever Sunday turnout, with a steady flow of customers enjoying the gentle Americana music drifting up from the amphitheater, and children happily making artwork and masks across from the professional art vendors.

A survey of 204 shoppers over the weekend gave us some great information. Over half of those in attendance were at Native Here for their very first time. Customers heard about the event from a large variety of sources, indicating that our publicity campaign is spread over a wide range of media.

Customers were impressed with our variety of plants for all growing conditions found within our two counties.

We continue to have a large variety of excellent plants, so come on up the hill and see us as the nights turn cool but the days stay warm. Looking forward, we will start-up another round of classes and workshops this spring, followed by another season of Sense of Place talks in the summer after the Wayne Roderick lectures end. We will also be having our first ever Spring Sale sometime around late February. Details are forthcoming, but will include special benefits for CNPS members. I welcome additional ideas.

Theo Fitanides
Manager
Native Here Nursery

RESTORATION

Saturday, November 1, 10 am, Point Isabel at Eastshore State Park

Meet at the Eastshore State Park lot at the end of Rydin Road next to Hoffman Marsh. We remove invasive plants and re-vegetate with native plants grown from plants found at the site.

Contact kyotousa@sbcglobal.net, 510- 684-6484 c.

Saturday, November 1, 10 am-1 pm, Sabercat Creek

Please check out our Google site for updates about site locations, maps and directions, waiver forms (please sign and bring these), and more info:

<https://sites.google.com/site/sabercatcreekrestoration/>

Sabrina Siebert ssiebert@fremont.gov

Garber Park November Habitat Restoration, Tuesday, November 4 and Saturday, November 15, 10 am-noon

Join us as we continue cutting and pulling invasive plants to reduce the fuel load and prepare our restoration sites for planting this winter. We will work in Harwood Creek and Rispin Meadow, perform some trail maintenance, and continue removing ivy at Fern Glade, our newest Restoration Site. Wear long sleeves and pants, and shoes with good traction. We provide tools, gloves, water and snacks but we encourage volunteers to bring their own gloves and reusable water bottles. Meet at Fireplace Plaza (a short walk from the Claremont Avenue entrance).

Map and Directions to Claremont Avenue Entrance: <http://garberparkstewards.blogspot.com/p/directions.html>. From Ashby Avenue go .4 mile up (East) towards Grizzly Peak on Claremont Avenue to the Claremont Avenue Entrance parking turn-out. From there it's a short walk up the trail to Fireplace Plaza. Bus: via AC Transit #49. Exit at the stop at Ashby/Claremont Avenue intersection. Then follow the directions above to the Claremont Avenue entrance.

For more information contact Shelagh Broderson at garber-parkstewards@gmail.com or 510-540-1918 or visit our website www.garberparkstewards.org.

November 8, 9 am and Sunday November 9, French broom (*Genista monspessulana*) rip at Redwood Regional Park

I am on vacation Saturday, November 1st, so the Saturday broom pull at Redwood Regional Park will be Saturday, November 8th. We will have a double-header: Saturday, November 8th and Sunday, November 9th. We will meet at Canyon Meadow on Saturday at 9:00 am and Sunday at 9:30 am. I hope we'll have some rain before then!

Monica (Redwood Ranger)

redwood@ebparks.org | www.ebparks.org

Saturday, November 8, 9:30 am, Huckleberry Regional Park

Join us at the Huckleberry parking lot and we will decide on what invasive weed to take on this month, depending on weather, soil conditions, and individual passions. Heavy rain will make the soil too muddy for work on steep slopes, but we will weed on more level areas in light rain or mist (hey, I'm an optimist). You can bring your favorite tool and gloves, or park staff can provide you with loaner gloves and tools. Cameras and plant lists are also welcome. Water and snacks are courtesy of park staff.

Directions: Take the Park exit from Highway 13, and follow Park to its end at the traffic light at Mountain. Go left on Mountain and follow it several blocks to the traffic light with Snake, a T-intersection. Turn right (uphill) onto Snake, and follow it all the way to its other end at Skyline Boulevard. Turn left onto Skyline and follow it several hundred meters to the Huckleberry parking lot on the right side of the road.

Saturday, November 8, 9:30 am-noon, Volunteer Workday Boys and Girls Club, 4660 Appian Way, El Sobrante

Join SPAWNERS as we pull invasive weeds and remove trash from our creekside site at the Boys and Girls Club. People with all levels of experience are welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please wear sturdy shoes, comfortable work clothes, and bring a water bottle. SPAWNERS will provide tools, gloves, and snacks. RSVP to courtney@thewatershedproject.org or 510-665-3538 if coming with a group of 4 people or more.

Sunday, November 16, 9:00 am, Sibley Regional Park

Meet us either at the Oakland-side parking lot off of Skyline, or park at the Old Tunnel Road staging area and meet us at the work site toolbox near the Tilden-to-Sibley Trail. If you choose Old Tunnel Road and hike south until you reach the footbridge, turn back because you've gone too far. As with Huckleberry Park, you can either bring your own gloves and tools or borrow the same from park staff (water and snacks also provided).

Directions to the Skyline parking lot are the same as for Huckleberry, but go north perhaps 1/2 mile beyond Huckleberry to the Sibley parking lot. From Berkeley and points north on Grizzly Peak, you will reach the Sibley parking lot first, on your left. If you are driving to Old Tunnel Road, you can reach it by exiting 24 at Fish Ranch Road and proceeding uphill to Old Tunnel Road. Look carefully for the Sibley Park sign.

SAVING KNOWLAND PARK

Knowland Park: the race to the finish

This has been a jam-packed month for the Knowland Park Team as we push hard toward the final vote by the Oakland City Council on whether to approve the Oakland Zoo's proposal to take 22 more acres of Knowland Park land (and exclude the public from 52 acres) in order to mitigate for building on the most sensitive habitat in the park. This would clear the way for the zoo to begin construction. Here's our recap.

Public Poll

A public poll we commissioned conducted by the highly respected national polling company, EMC, showed that a super majority of likely Oakland voters (75%) don't want the zoo project on the Knowland Park ridge, despite the fact that the poll also shows that the zoo is a popular institution. 80% of those polled say that access to public open space is very important to them. The poll also showed that when voters are given more information about the fact that there are alternative sites beside high quality park land on which to develop, support for the current expansion project drops to 17%. In other words, getting the word out to the public about better options is key to our success. You can read the East Bay Express article on the poll (plus the zoo's attempt to refute the findings) at <http://www.eastbayexpress.com/SevenDays/archives/2014/10/16/save-knowland-park-releases-poll-showing-strong-voter-opposition-to-oakland-zoo-expansion>).

Response by the City

When the East Bay Express article on the zoo expansion was published in September (<http://www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland/zoo-gone-wild/Content?oid=4059113>), we found changed attitudes in our visits with City Council members, with some expressing interest in finding a compromise solution. No sooner did these new attitudes emerge than the City suddenly held a closed session of the City Council to discuss the terms of the proposed conservation easement to take more park land and permanently remove public access. We wrote a letter to the City Attorney stating that closing the meeting violated the Brown Act (see letter on our conservation blog <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/>). The City Attorney argued that she could close the session under the "real estate exception" to the Brown Act, which allows negotiations for real estate deals to be withheld from scrutiny to prevent potential price gouging efforts by competitors. But these conditions do not exist.

What's worse, after the closed session, the City Attorney held City Council members hostage by threatening them with potentially having to recuse themselves from the future vote if they discussed their positions on the zoo expansion publicly. This issue is of obvious importance and interest to the public, and the attempt to gag CC members (three of whom are running for office) is a naked attempt to squelch public debate. The City Attorney now denies that she issued a gag order but continues to attempt to restrict City Council members in what they may consider.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Vote

Despite these draconian measures, opposition to the zoo project is building. On October 22nd, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) held a meeting to consider whether to recommend to the City Council that it approve the zoo's conservation easement proposal. The room was packed with about 50 park supporters and an approximately equal number of zoo employees and volunteers who took a charter bus to the meeting. After spirited public comments, the commissioners voted 5-2 in favor of recommending the measure, but the measure failed since 6 votes were required (3 commissioners were absent). The upshot was that the PRAC could make no recommendation to the City Council, a decided victory for us.

The two commissioners who voted against the motion were clear on why they opposed it: one said that she did not believe in taking away more city open space and that she liked the idea of wildlife living within the city's borders. The other said that she felt that the issue was complex and that she hadn't seen everything that she thought necessary to understand the issue, but that she was opposed to the practice of double-dipping (where already saved park land is used for mitigation land).

The Upcoming City Council Vote

While no date has yet been for the City Council vote, we have learned that zoo management has alerted zoo employees that the City Council vote will take place on November 18th so that they can sign up to take a charter bus to the meeting.

What You Can Do

We need to lobby the City Council members hard to convince them that there are better ways for the zoo to develop than on sensitive public park land. Our message has not changed, but the poll, public opposition, and the failed PRAC vote all show that our message is taking hold. If we are to save the park, every person must help because our experience over the past 3.5 years has shown that the City has stacked the deck against the park. We need to get through to those City Council members who require large, visible public support to vote down this blatant privatization of public land.

1. Write, e-mail, and call every City Council member with the message that you want them to vote down the conservation easement proposal and that you want Knowland Park protected in perpetuity. (City Council member contact information can be found at <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/Government/o/CityCouncil/>.)
2. Come to the City Council meeting (tentatively set for Tuesday, November 18 at 6:30 pm). City Council meetings can be long, so come prepared to be there the whole evening. Bring a book, knitting, your laptop, and friends: even if you do not intend to speak, you can cede minutes to those who need more speaking time, but you have to be there to do that.

3. Watch for action alerts posted by Martha Booz and on the www.saveknowland.org website. Your volunteer time is precious to us. Contact Mack Casterman at conservation@ebcnps.org or 510-734-0335.

4. Make a donation to the campaign through Paypal or check. We run on an amazing engine of volunteers plus help from our Conservation Analyst, Mack Casterman. But we are up against the deep pockets of the zoo board and donors, and our legal bills, the poll, and upcoming ads are expensive.

We know it's been a long hard road, but whoever believed that we'd still be in this fight after all this time? Certainly not

the zoo. Without the tenacity of many people, we could not have come this far. Norman La Force, who spoke at the PRAC meeting on behalf of the Sierra Club, reminded the audience and the commissioners that when environmentalist David Brower was told that a proposed dam in the Grand Canyon was a done deal because it had gotten all of its approvals, Brower said, "No it's not. Not yet." And he was right.

Laura Baker for the Knowland Park Team



Rare maritime chaparral in Knowland Park. Photo by Laura Baker. The entire stand of rare maritime chaparral in Knowland Park would be permanently off limits to the public if the zoo's plan were to be put into effect.

You must live in the present, launch yourself on every wave, find your eternity in each moment. Fools stand on their island of opportunities and look toward another land. There is no other land; there is no other life but this.

Henry David Thoreau

For my part, I feel that with regard to Nature I live a sort of border life, on the confines of a world, into which I make occasional and transient forays only, and my patriotism and allegiance to the state into whose territories I seem to retreat are those of a moss-trooper. Unto a life which I call natural I would gladly follow even a will-o'-the-wisp through bogs and sloughs unimaginable, but no moon nor fire-fly has shown me the cause-way to it. Nature is a personality so vast and universal that we have never seen one of her features.

Henry David Thoreau, "Walking"

CONSERVATION ANALYST'S REPORT

Tesla Park Update

The State Park's Off Highway Motor Vehicular Recreation Division recently released a statement that the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for its proposed expansion into Tesla Park is still due to be released this fall (between 9/22/14 and 12/21/14). Our coalition of environmental organizations has been working to review the document history for this project in preparation for providing strong, informed comments in response to the DEIR. As soon as the DEIR is released we will need all hands on deck to help with EBCNPS's review and comment letter. Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for my call to action.

Small Victory for Knowland Park!

At the October 22nd meeting of the Oakland Park and Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC), the committee failed to muster enough votes to recommend to the City Council that it approve the Zoo's proposed conservation easement in Knowland Park. This was a decided victory for the park and its supporters. The Zoo chartered a bus to bring employees to the meeting, but was still unable to make a case as to why its project must be completed on the ridgeline, on top of the most sensitive resources in the park.

FIELD TRIP

Friday, November 28, 10:30 am, Buy Nothing Day field Trip in Tilden Park

Join chapter members at the South Park Drive closure gate nearest to the Regional Parks Botanic Garden (RPBG). We will either hike up Big Springs trail (dry ground scenario) or scope out trees, newts and early mosses on South Park Drive (muddy ground). Think of this as a beginner-level kick back sort of walk, with discussion of the "all-California" plantings amid both exotic and indigenous vascular plants. Bring hand or magnifying lenses if you want bryophyte close-ups, and we'll likely have time for binoculars and birds. We will go out in mist or light rain, but a majority vote can move us back to the awnings of the RPBG to look at remnant fall color. Light rain partly depends on the beholder.

Directions

Driving: From Berkeley at Dwight Way and points south, go east on Dwight (uphill) past Piedmont, and then turn left at

Let's hope that this failure of the PRAC to pass on a recommendation to the City Council will raise some doubt in the Council's minds as to the benefits of the Zoo's proposed conservation easement, which simply promises to protect already protected parkland as mitigation for the environmental harm its project would cause. At a future meeting, the City Council will consider the Zoo's mitigation proposal and will vote whether or not to approve it. We will need all the support we can get at that City Council meeting, which will likely take place sometime in November. Stay tuned for an announcement of the meeting information once it is scheduled.

Volunteering: The Conservation Committee is always looking for new volunteers to get involved in our many projects. If you are interested in working with me on any of the projects that you have read about on our blog or in past Conservation Analyst Updates, please feel free to contact me by phone at 510-734-0335 or by email at conservation@ebcnps.org. And as always, for more detailed updates on all of our conservation projects please visit the Conservation Blog at <http://ebcnps.wordpress.com/>.

Mack Casterman

East Bay Chapter Conservation Analyst

the 2nd intersection and drive uphill past the football field to Centennial. Take Centennial all the way to Grizzly Peak and then follow it past Grizzly Peak into Tilden. Go past the golf course and Native Here Nursery, and then turn right and downhill at the Shasta stop sign. Bear right at the next stop sign and drive parallel to the botanic garden until you reach the South Park Drive gate.

Mass transit: From the downtown Berkeley BART station go to the stop for the AC Transit # 67 bus on the northeast side of Shattuck Avenue. #67 bus runs once an hour, and you take it all the way through Tilden Park to the last park stop at the Brazil Building. Walk downhill from the bus stop and then past the botanic garden parking area to the South Park Drive closure gate. For fares, schedules, etc., go to www.511.org.

If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours.

Henry David Thoreau

POINT ISABEL RESTORATION—OCTOBER 4, 2014

Saturday's Point Isabel work party was hot. Hot, in the sense that the temperature hovered near a record high. Even so 15 hard working volunteers came out to finish clearing the newest site and to help us eliminate a newly detected infestation of Russian thistle (*Salsola soda*) and significant numbers of Algerian sea lavender plants outside of our project area along a spit in the Hoffman Marsh. Even the presence of two turkey vultures (*Cathartes aura*) watching our ever diminishing movements, could not deter this motivated group. (The October-December 2014 edition of the always excellent *Bay Nature* magazine that was waiting for us when we returned home after this work party features a great article on turkey vultures written by Joe Eaton.)

In addition to our core team members we were joined at this work party by Clyde (who has volunteered for different restoration groups for many years), and by Milton (whose enthusiasm and energy has inspired us at previous work

parties) as well as by members of the Berkeley Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology, who first worked with us at the May 3rd work party. The exciting news is that we have now further expanded our stewardship program for Point Isabel as both Nina and the Society for Conservation Biology (via Nathan Van Schmidt) have assumed stewardship roles of two sites. Our stewards are: Sue, Oliver, Rob, Tyson, Margot, Nina, and Nathan + colleagues. We would welcome additions to this fantastic group.

Kudos to the East Bay Regional Park District and especially to Bruce Adams for providing us once again with all the tools and encouragement we needed to complete this work.

Jane and Tom Kelly



Weed warriors on break. Photo by Jane Kelly.

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Praying mantis. Photo by Jane Kelly.



Turkey vultures. Photo by Jane Kelly.



Salso pull. Photo by Jane Kelly.

CONSERVATION ANALYST FUND

\$16,355 has been raised for the 2015 Conservation Analyst Fund! We are very pleased to have such a great start.

We urge all lovers of our local native plants and habitats to keep our Conservation Analyst, Mack Casterman, on our team. We need \$40,000 to support his half-time position.

It is easy to donate using Paypal on the Chapter website (www.ebcnps.org) or you may write a check to CNPS, PO Box 5597, Elmwood Station, Berkeley CA 94705. All contributions are tax deductible. Thank you!

Many thanks to the following donors to the 2015 Conservation Analyst Fund.

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Lisa Anich
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EBCNPS Sponsored Activities

East Bay Chapter News list Emailed announcements of upcoming EBCNPS events

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Native Here Nursery

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Manager—Theo Fitanides
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Native Here inventory specialist
Adam Huggins

Plant Fair

vacant

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janetgawthrop47@gmail.com

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Walnut Creek

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Membership Application and Renewal Form

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

I wish to affiliate with:

___ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

___ Other _____

Mail application and check to: California Native Plant Society, 2707 K Street, Suite 1,
Sacramento CA 95816

Membership category:

- ___ Individual, \$45
- ___ Family, Library, Group or International, \$75
- ___ Plant lover, \$100
- ___ Patron, \$300
- ___ Benefactor, \$600
- ___ Mariposa Lily, \$1500
- ___ Limited Income or student, \$25.00
- ___ Other _____